

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 1, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 773

Introduced by Senator Allen

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 4024 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicle registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 773, as amended, Allen. Vehicles: registration fraud: study.

Existing law prohibits a person from driving, moving, or leaving standing upon a highway, or in an offstreet public parking facility, any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole or pipe dolly, or logging dolly, unless it is registered and the appropriate fees have been paid, except as specified. Existing law makes it a felony for a person who, with the intent to prejudice, damage, or defraud, alters, forges, counterfeits, or falsifies a registration card or who utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as true and genuine, a false, altered, forged, or counterfeited registration card knowing it to be false, altered, forged, or counterfeited.

This bill would request the University of California to conduct a study on motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a motor vehicle, and would require the study to include specified information, including quantification of the magnitude of the problem, the costs to the state and local governments in lost revenues, and recommended strategies for increasing compliance with registration requirements. The bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles *to enter into an agreement with the University of California to share its vehicle registration information for purposes of conducting the study* and would *require* the Department of the California Highway Patrol to provide

specified information to the University of California researchers who are conducting the study. The bill would request the University of California to post a report of the study on its Internet Web site no later than January 1, 2017.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a
4 motor vehicle are both illegal and fundamentally unfair to the vast
5 majority of Californians who comply with registration
6 requirements. These crimes rob the state and local governments
7 of millions of dollars of revenues needed for vital purposes, such
8 as transportation projects, supporting the Department of the
9 California Highway Patrol, deterring auto theft, enforcing laws
10 prohibiting driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs,
11 removing abandoned vehicles, and many other socially desirable
12 programs.

13 (2) Motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a
14 motor vehicle also have significant public health consequences
15 and contribute disproportionately to motor vehicle emissions
16 because many individuals committing registration fraud have gross
17 emitting vehicles and are deliberately circumventing the inspection
18 and maintenance program.

19 (3) Motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a
20 motor vehicle also significantly increase insurance costs for
21 law-abiding citizens.

22 (4) It is in the public interest to have motor vehicle owners
23 comply with existing registration laws.

24 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
25 motorists to register their vehicles in accordance with existing law.

26 SEC. 2. Section 4024 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27 4024. (a) The University of California is requested to conduct
28 a study on motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register
29 a motor vehicle. The study shall include all of the following:

30 (1) Quantification of the magnitude of the problem.

1 (2) The strategies being used by motorists to commit motor
2 vehicle registration fraud.

3 (3) The reasons for the behaviors of motorists who commit fraud
4 in registration of, or who fail to register, their motor vehicles.

5 (4) The costs to the state and local governments in lost revenues.

6 (5) Increases in air pollution.

7 (6) Other costs and consequences of these behaviors.

8 (7) Recommended strategies for increasing compliance with
9 registration requirements.

10 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall *enter into an*
11 *agreement with the University of California to share its existing*
12 ~~database of vehicle registration records~~ *information* with the
13 University of California researchers ~~who are~~ *for the purposes of*
14 conducting the study. The Department of the California Highway
15 Patrol shall share information on their efforts to combat registration
16 fraud, including the CHEATERS program, with the University of
17 California researchers who are conducting the study.

18 (c) The University of California is requested to post a report of
19 the study on its Internet Web site no later than January 1, 2017.